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**Statement of Congressman Ron Kind (WI-03)
Honoring Mr. Oscar Peterslie Wisconsin's Outstanding Older Worker
September 17, 2003**

MR KIND: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Oscar Peterslie who received the "Outstanding Older Worker" award in the State of Wisconsin for 2003 by the Experience Works Prime Time Awards Program. Experience Works, a nonprofit focused on employment, training and community services for older workers, began the Prime Time Awards Program six years ago and Oscar is the first winner from La Crosse, Wisconsin.

I applaud Oscar, who, at the age of 81, currently works more than 40 hours per week as the Assistant Manager for the Pearl Ice Cream Parlor at 207 Pearl Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The La Crosse community is fortunate to have an old fashion ice cream parlor such as Pearl's. I cannot think of a better place to bring my two sons Johnny,

and Matthew on a warm summer evening to enjoy their special homemade ice cream and candy. Oscar, his son TJ, daughter-in-law Michelle, and two granddaughters always offer a warm greeting to each and every customer that walks through their door. Moreover, for several years I had the pleasure of living next door to the ice cream parlor, allowing me to frequently stopover for my favorite homemade chocolate ice cream.

In addition to Oscar's work at the Ice Cream parlor, he has contributed significantly to our country and local businesses in Wisconsin. During WWII, he was a Marine Sergeant in the Pacific Theater. After the war, he managed the A & P Grocery Store in La Crosse, Wisconsin for 21 years and

then became a real estate agent until 1993.

It is apparent that service to our community has always been important to Oscar. He remains active in numerous community activities and services as a member of the La Crosse Masonic Temple, Badger Lodge #345. He is also widely known as a Shriner's clown, brightening the faces of both young and old as he works the parades with his infamous three foot harmonica.

Mr. Speaker, may everyone learn from the service and dedication shown by this noble and honorable man, Oscar Peterslie, Wisconsin's outstanding older worker for 2003. Oscar had made a difference in the La Crosse Community and created a chocolate ice cream addiction I do not think I will ever be able to break.